

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	
)	
Manolito E. ADAN et al.)	Suggested Group Art Unit: 2778
)	
Application No.: Cont. of 09/153,148)	Suggested Examiner: M. Said
)	
Filed: November 30, 2001)	
)	
For: INPUT DEVICE WITH)	
FORWARD/BACKWARD)	
CONTROL)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §713.02, Applicants hereby request a personal interview for the above-identified continuing application prior to a first action on the merits.

It is requested that the undersigned be contacted to schedule an interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Prior to an examination on the merits, please enter the following preliminary amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-29 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims 30-33:

30. (New) A computer mouse for use with a computer, the computer running network browser software for visiting network addresses, the mouse having:

- a housing; and
- at least one user depressible surface exposed on the housing for communicating a first command signal to the computer,
- the first command signal associated with a paging back function of the network browser software,
- whereby depression of the user depressible surface causes the network browser software to page backward without having to place the cursor over a browser back button of the network browser software.

31. (New) In a computer mouse including a housing,

- an electrical power source for powering electronic circuitry,
- the electronic circuitry located within the housing,
- a mouse cursor position control arrangement coupled to the electronic circuitry for allowing a user to control the mouse cursor position on a computer monitor,
- the electronic circuitry in communication with devices for communicating output control signals from the electronic circuitry to a computer,
- a plurality of finger-depressible buttons exposed on the housing and interfacing with switches, the switches electrically coupled with the electronic circuitry for allowing user selection of output control signals communicated to a computer;

wherein:

- at least one of the buttons associated with a page-back function, depression of the at least one button causes network browsing software to receive a page-back message that initiates a page-back function executed by the network browsing software,

the network browsing software receiving the page-back message without requiring the mouse cursor to be located on a back button of the network browsing software displayed on the monitor.

32. (New) A method of using a computer mouse,
the mouse having a cursor position control arrangement for defining cursor position on a display, and user activatable buttons,
wherein the method includes:
activating one of the buttons to send a page-back signal,
regardless of the cursor position on the display, to network browsing software for execution of a page-back function.

33. (New) A method of browsing or navigating a network using a computer mouse,
the mouse having a cursor position control arrangement for defining cursor position on a display, and user activatable buttons,
wherein the method includes: depressing one of the buttons to send a page-back signal,
regardless of cursor position on the display, to network browsing software for execution of a page-back function.

REMARKS

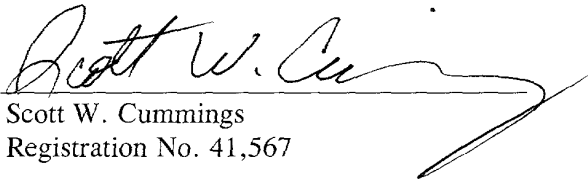
Upon entry of the foregoing, claims 30-33 are pending and await an examination on the merits.

Applicants have amended the present application in a manner that supports an interference, and complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §135(b). Based on the foregoing claims amendments, applicants expect that an interference will be declared with U.S. Patent No. 6,198,472 to Armstrong et al. (issued March 6, 2001). A Request for Interference will be filed in the near future in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.607.

Applicants respectfully request expedited handling by the Examiner. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at his/her earliest convenience to schedule an interview to discuss the issues presented by this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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